



Austro-Hungarian
Orders, Medals and Decorations
Volume II: Pre-1848 Awards
Part I, 1408–1621



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Introduction

What follows is an analysis of the orders medals and decorations of the Austrian and later Austro-Hungarian Empire. The period covered in this publication is from 1740 to 1918. The primary focus of this research is on the period commencing with the reign of Franz Joseph I in 1848 and ending with the abdication of Charles I in 1918. Since some of the awards, authorized in WWI continued to be issued until the late 1920s the time frame between 1918 and 1929 will be considered but only as it pertains to the issuance of imperial awards. The exception to this rule will be the inclusion of the World War I commemoration medals, which were issued by the Austrian Republic for service in the Great War.

When one speaks of Austria it is hard to define exactly when this political entity first arose and also the scope of the lands included within its boundaries. The heart of the state was the Mark which lay along the south bank of the Danube and which was originally formed by the Franks in A.D.800 as a defensive bulwark against the Slavs. In 996 this land now ruled as a Holy Roman fife by the Babenberg's was first referred to as Ostarrichi. In 1156 the Holy Roman Emperor Frederick I raised Austria to the rank of a Duchy. The Babenberg family which ruled these lands became extinct in 1246 when Duke Frederick II was killed in battle. In 1273 Rudolf Habsburg defeated Otakar II of Bohemia and in so doing gained possession of Austria. This conquest by Rudolf marks the beginning of the Habsburg domination of the lands known as Austria. In 1453 Frederick III, Holy Roman Emperor raised the status of the Dukes of Austria to that of Archdukes. In 1804 when Napoleon was crowned Emperor of France the Habsburg dynasty became endangered. It was believed that Napoleon would either bring about the collapse of the Holy Roman Empire or become its next emperor; either of these events could subordinate the Habsburgs to Napoleon and his descendants. To avoid this in 1804 Franz II, the Holy Roman Emperor also assumed the title of Emperor of Austria as Franz I. In 1806 Franz II abdicated as the Holy Roman Emperor thus becoming Franz I of Austria. On November 1st 1918 Charles I abdicated the Austrian throne and the empire which had lasted more than 600 years came to an end.

This research volume will primarily cover the awards issued from 1740 to 1848. In order to illustrate the continuity between the awards issued after 1740 and those issued in Austria in earlier times a brief reference will be made to awards issued prior to 1740. The scope of this research will be confined to awards issued to military and to government officials who supported the Austrian government. Awards issued by non-governmental entities not sanctioned by the Habsburg rulers or their surrogates or for purposes not related to the national goals of the Habsburg Empire will not be included in this document.





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Order of the Braid (Zopf-Orden)



Date Issued: 1367-1395

Reason Issued: This order was created by Albrecht III duke of Austria as an order of knighthood to create a fellowship of knights that would honor knightly values and be loyal to the Hapsburgs.

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts:

- Albrecht was known as Albert with the braid. This was apparently because this was the hair style that he preferred.
- The order took its motif from Albrecht III name.

This is thought to be the first Austrian order of knighthood. There is very little documentation in existence regarding it and only one known example which is in the Styrian State Museum. However there is a painting of Albrecht wearing it and thus its existence in the correct time frame appears to be supported by the evidence (see below).

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A replica of a braid forming a loop with a knot at the end in gold

Obverse: A replica of a braid in three dimensions

Reverse: Plain metal.

Weight: Unknown

Size: Unknown

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: None

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Order of the Dragon (Drachenordnung)



Circa 1500 Badge

Date Issued: December 12, 1408– Circa 1799

Reason Issued: The order was founded by Sigismund of Luxembourg who was King of Hungary at the time, and who would become the Holy Roman Emperor in 1433, to fight the Ottoman Empire, defend the Hungarian monarchy from foreign and domestic enemies, and the Catholic Church from heretics and pagans. It also served to bind the nobles of Hungary to his reign.

Classes or Types: Two

- Dragon insignia with cross
- Dragon insignia without cross

Interesting Facts:

- When it was founded the official name of the order was the Societas Draconistarum (Dragon Society). It was also sometimes referred to as the Order of the Dragon overthrown
- The Order flourished during the first half of the 15th century, primarily in Germany and Italy. After Sigismund's death in 1437, its importance declined in Western Europe. However, after the fall of Constantinople in 1453, it continued to play a role in Hungary, Croatia, Albania, Serbia and Romania.
- Membership in the order society was open to Hungarians and nobles from other lands
- The Insignia of the society symbolizes the victory of Christianity over its enemies. A dragon with a knotted tail, as represented by the insignia of the society, stands for the destruction of evil, because it was believed that - as with the Scorpion - the power of the dragon was in his tail.
 - There are no contemporary insignia from the founding era known thus all examples are from later periods in the orders history





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Order of the Dragon

(Drachenordnung)



Type I Dragon

Hallmarks: None Known

Design:

- Badge: A dragon with a curved back, the tail of which is wrapped around its neck (see above).
- Cross: A red enameled Greek cross with flaming ends (See above right)

Obverse:

- Badge: A detailed dragon in a curved form with its tail raped around its neck and a cross in the design of its back. (see above)
- Cross: A red enameled Greek cross with flaming ends (See above)

Reverse: Unknown

Weight: Unknown

Size: Unknown

Type of Material: Metal and bullion thread

Variations:

- Type I insignia: A dragon badge as described in bullion materials (see above)
- Type II Insignia: As described but in metal and with a red enameled cross on the back of the dragon badge and an attached red enameled Greek cross
- Type III Insignia: A metal dragon badge without the cross design on the back and an attached cross without enamel. (See next page)
- Type IV Insignia: The type I or II dragon badge accompanied by an unattached red enameled Greek cross with flaming ends



Type II Dragon





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Order of the Dragon

(Drachenordnung)



Type III Dragon

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued:

- There were originally 24 knights of the order with badge and cross
- There were an unknown number of members with the badge without the cross

Founding members

The 21 original members of the Order of the Dragon as enumerated in the 1408 founding charters. These are, in the original order and in the original Latin:

1. Stephanus despoth, dominus Rasciae, item
 2. Hermannus comes Cily et Zagoriae,
 3. Comes Fredericus, filius eiusdem,
 4. Nicolaus de gara, regni Hungariae palatinus,
 5. Stiborius de Stiboricz alias vaiuoda Transylvanus,
 6. Joannes filius Henrici de Thamassy et
 7. Jacobus Laczk de Zantho, vaiuodae Transylvani,
 8. Joannes de Maroth Machouiensis,
 9. Pipo de Ozora Zewreniensis, bani;
 10. Nicolaus de Zeech magister tauernicorum regalium,
 11. comes Karolus de Corbauia, supremus thesaurarius regius,
 12. Symon filius condam Konye bani de Zecheen, janitorum,
 13. comes Joannes de Corbauia, dapiferorum,
 14. Joannes filius Georgii de Alsaan pincernarum,
 15. Petrus Cheh de Lewa aganzonum regalium magistri,
 16. Nicolaus de Chak, alias vaiuoda Transylvanus,
 17. Paulus Byssenus, alter Paulus de Peth, pridem Dalmatiae, Croatiae et totius Sclauoniae regnorum bani,
 18. Michael, filius Salamonis de Nadasd comes siculorum regalium,
 19. Petrus de Peren, alias siculorum nunc vero maramorossensis comes,
 20. Emericus de eadem Pern secretarius cancellarius regius
- et Joannes filius condam domini Nicolai de Gara palatini.

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: None

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Prior to 1740 Habsburg rulers issue awards in very small numbers. Many were one of a kind awards made specifically for the Duke, Archduke or intended recipient. Most awards prior to 1740 were issued either to commemorate the rule of a predecessor or as a special individual honor. Many of these awards were not wearable as issued and would, using today's terminology, be described as table medals. What follows is a description of some of the wearable medals from this era. This section is not intended to be comprehensive but rather illustrative.





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Maximillian Golden Honor Medal

(Maximilian Goldener Gnadenpfennig)

Images courtesy of
Dorotheum



Date Issued: Circa 1508-1519

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” thus this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Maximilian I Gold Honor Medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A Round medal with loop suspension eyes at the top.

Obverse: A bust of Maximilian I in armor facing to the viewers right and wearing a crown. Around the edge of the medal is inscribed **MAX. RO. IMP. SEMPER. AVGVSTVS. ARCHIDV. AVST.** Translation: Maximilian I Roman Emperor and Archduke of Austria

Reverse: In the center of the medal is a mounted knight, around which are shields and images of soldiers. Around the edge of the medal is inscribed: **PLVRIVM. OZ. EVROPE. PROVINCIARVM. REX. ET. PRINCEPS. POTENTISSIVS.** Translation: The most powerful king and prince of many provinces of Europe.

Weight: 26.6 grams

Size: 39 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold plated silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A three stranded gold chain which connects with the eyes at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Maximillian Honor Medal

(Maximillian Goldener Gnadenpfennig)

Images courtesy of
Dorotheum



Date Issued: Circa 1508-1519

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Medal
- Silver Medal

Interesting Facts:

- The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” thus this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Maximillian I Gold Honor Medal.
- This medal also came in the form of a table Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A Round medal with a loop suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A bust of Maximilian I in armor facing to the viewers left and holding a sword in his right hand and a scepter in his left. He is wearing a crown. Around the edge of the medal is inscribed **MAXIMILIANVS. DEI. GRA. ROMANOR. REX. SEMPER. AVGUSTVS.** Translation: Maximillian with God’s grace of Roman King and Emperor

Reverse: In the center of the medal is the crowned imperial coat of arms within the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece. Around this are shields with coat of arms of Hungary, Austria, Burgundy and the House of Habsburg. All of this is below a Gothic decorative element. Around the edge of the medal is the inscription: **XPIA REGNOR REX HERS QZ ARCHIDVX AVSTRE PLVRIMAR QZ EVROP PROVICIAR PNS DVX ET DO.** Translation: The Hereditary King of Christian as well as other Realms, Archduke of Austria and of very many lands Prince, Duke and Lord.

Weight:

- Gold Medal: 28.7 grams
- Silver Medal: 44.1 grams

Size:

- Gold Medal: 48 mm in diameter
- Silver Medal: 44 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold plated silver and silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Benedikt Burkhart





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Maximillian Honor Medal
(Mazimillian I Goldener Gnadenpfenning)

Manufacturer: Hall Mint in Tyrol
Number Issued: Unknown
Case: Unknown
Ribbon: Unknown
Attachments: None
Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Archduke Ferdinand of Tyrol Golden Grace Medal
(Erzherzog Ferdinand Von Tyrol Goldener Gnadenpfenning)



Date Issued: 1562

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” thus this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Archduke Ferdinand of Tyrol Gold Honor Medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with ornamental edges and a large loop suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A bust of Archduke Ferdinand in full dress amour facing to the viewers right. Around the edge of the medal is inscribed **FERDINANDVS.D.G.ROM.IMP.HVN.BOH.REX**. Translation: Ferdinand with the grace of God Roman Emperor and Hungarian, Bohemian King)

Reverse: Unknown

Weight: Unknown

Size: 35 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A three stranded gold chain which passes through the eye at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Archduke Charles Golden Grace Medal
(Erzherzog CharlesGoldener Gnadenpfenning)



Date Issued: circa 1564

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts:

- The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” thus this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Archduke Charles Gold Honor Medal.
- Archduke Charles was the ruler of Inner Austria from 1564 until 1590. Inner Austria was composed of the duchies of Styria, Carniola and Carinthia

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A Round medal with a raised rim.

Obverse: A bust of Archduke Charles in full dress armour facing to the viewers right. Around the upper edge of the medal is inscribed **CAROLVS ARCHIDVX AVSTRIAE**. Translation: Charles Archduke Austria

Reverse: An image of a winged Fortuna standing in ocean waves on a winged globe holding a sail being blown on by a zephyr. To the viewers right of the goddess is a dolphin. In the background is a city scape.

Weight: 32.7 grams

Size: 42 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Antonio Abondio

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A three stranded gold chain which passes through the eye at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Emperor Maximilian II Golden Grace Medal

(Kaiser Maximilian II Goldener Gnadenpfennig)



Image attributed to Reference Catalogue Orders, medals and decorations of the World, A-D, Borna Barac

Date Issued: 1568

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: Two, a large gold medal and a small gold medal.

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus the word “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Emperor Maximilian II Gold Honor Medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a large curricular suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Maximilian II in full dress armor and high lace collar facing to the left. Around the bust is inscribed **MAXIMILI.II.ROM.IMP.S.A.** Translation: Maximilian II Roman Emperor and Sovereign of Austria. The obverse edge of the medal is decorated with a series of stylized chain links

Reverse: A single headed eagle grasping the globe in its left talon with the inscription **DOMINVS PROVIDEBIT**, translation: Provident Ruler, around the upper edge of the medal. The reverse edge of the medal is decorated with a series of stylized chain links.

Weight: Unknown

Size:

- Large Medal: 38-39 mm in diameter
- Small Medal: 31 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A three strand gold chain which passes through the eye at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Rudolph II Golden Grace Medal
(Kaiser Rudolph II Goldener Gnadenpfenning)

Images courtesy of
Dorotheum



Date Issued: Circa 1576-1608

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” thus this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Maximillian I Gold Honor Medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with a loop suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A bust of Rudolf II in armor wearing the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece and with a laurel wreath in his hair facing slightly to the viewers right. Around the upper edge of the medal is inscribed **RVDOLPH. II. ROM. IMP. S. AV.** Translation: Rudolf II Roman and Austrian Emperor.

Reverse: Inside a beaded rim is a scene of a god blowing on an eagle, standing on a rock, from a bank of clouds. Behind the eagle is the word **CVI**. And in front of the eagle are the words **MILITAT AVSTER**. Translation: My Austrian Military.

Weight: Unknown

Size: Unknown

Type of Material: Gold plated silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Honor Medallion of the Inner Austrian Assembly
(Ehrenpfennig der Innerösterreich Landsstand)

Date Issued: 1578

Reason Issued: To reward the Inter-Austrian Court Chamberlain Johann Vetter in 1578.

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts:

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An enameled oblong medallion with three suspension eyes and three eyes to which pearls are attached

Obverse: The multi-colored coat of arms of Steiermark (Styria) and the date 1578

Reverse: Unknown.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 118 mm by 49 mm

Type of Material: Gold and enamel

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A three strand gold chain, one strand of which connects to each eye at the top of the medal (see the Archduke Maximilian Medal on page 17)

Attachments: Three pearls

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Emperor Rudolph II Grace Medal

(Kaiser Rudolph II Gnadenpfenning)



Date Issued: 1585

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Emperor Rudolph II Gold Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a suspension eye at the top

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Rudolph II in full dress armor facing to the right, and inscribed around the upper edge **RVDOLPHVS II. IMP. AVG.** Translation: Rudolph II Emperor, by the Grace of God Sovereign.

Reverse: An eagle surrounded by clouds with the inscription **SALVTI PVBLICAE.** Translation: Public Recognition, around the upper edge of the medal.

Weight: 27.4 grams

Size: 45.8 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Antonio Abondio

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A fine silver chain, which passes through the eye at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Corinthian Honor Medal

(Karantner Ehrpfenning)

Date Issued: 1597

Reason Issued: This medal was issued as a “grace” medal to honor persons who had rendered special services to the Duchy of Carinthia

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” and therefore the title of this medal is in today’s terms the Corinthian Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a suspension eye at the top

Obverse: A bust of the Savior

Reverse: The Corinthian coat of arms

Weight: Unknown

Size: 95 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A fine silver chain, which passes through the eye at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Emperor Rudolph II Golden Grace Medal
(Kaiser Rudolph II Goldener Gnadenpfenning)



Date Issued: Circa 1600

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” therefore this medal is titled in today’s terms the Emperor Rudolph II Gold Honor Medal

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with raised notched rim and a suspension eye at the top

Obverse: A bust of Emperor Rudolph II in full dress armor facing to the viewers right with a laurel wreath on his head and wearing the Order of the Golden Fleece on a chain, and inscribed around the upper edge of the medal is **RVDOLPHVS.II. ROM IMP AVG REX HVNG BOE** Translation: Rudolph II Supreme Roman Emperor king of Hungary and Bohemia.

Reverse: On a plain field is an eagle above a ram above the earth and a star. This symbolizes the Hapsburg eagle above the zodiac sign for Capricorn (a reference to Augustus Caesar and the similarity between Rudolf and Caesar). Around the image is inscribed, on the left **ASTRVM**, on the right **FVLGET** and at the bottom and upside down **CAES**. Translation: The emperors’ star shines brightly.

Weight: Unknown

Size: 56 by 49 mm

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Manufactured in Prague by an unknown entity

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A fine gold chain, which passes through the eye at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Margrave of Upper Lusatia Award Medal
(Pramienmedaille der Oberer Lausitzer Markgrafshaft)



Date Issued: 1606

Reason Issued: To reward Johann Fabian Ponikau for services to the Murgravite

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: None Known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with two suspension eyes at the top

Obverse: A battlement surrounded by a stylized ring outside of which is wave like pattern, topped by a crown. Inscribed on the rim of the medal is **INSIGNIA MARCHIONATUS LUSATIAE SUPERIORIS MDCVI**. Translation: Margrave of Upper Lusatia insignia 1606

Reverse: A plain field on which is inscribed: **SORBAN CUMVIRTUTI GLORIA INDUSTRIAE PRAEMIAE DEBEANTUR ORDINIS PROVINCIALES LUSATIAE SUPERIORIS D. IONNI FABIANO A PONI KAU IN ELSTRA SENIORI DIOCESIOS BUDISSINENSIS AMICO PRAECIPUE MUNERE AB LEGATI AD COMPONEN-DAS MOTUS UNGARICOS CUM UTILITA TE PATRI-AE LAUDABILITER ET FELICITER PERSUNCTO CATENAM ET HUNG GROSS-SUM AUREM TESTITCANDI GRATIANIMI GAUSA DONO DEDE RUNT ANNO CHRISTI MDCVI MENSE SEPTEM.**

Weight: 42. Grams

Size: 47 mm by 39 mm

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: A gold chain, which attaches to the eyes at the top of the medal

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740

Emperor Matthias I Honor Medal

(Kaiser Mattheis I Gnadenpfenning)

Images courtesy of
Dorotheum



Date Issued: 1612-1619

Reason Issued: If the reason for issuing later medals which were similar to this medal can be taken as a guide then this medal was issued as a reward for special merit in support of the emperor and his dynastic goals.

Classes or Types: Two

- Gold Honor Medal
- Silver Honor Medal

Interesting Facts: The word “grace” as used in the title of this medal had a different meaning when it was issued than it does today. Thus “grace” should be interpreted as “honor” thus this medal’s title is in today’s terms the Maximillian I Honor Medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with a loop suspension eye at the top.

Obverse: A bust of Matthias I in armor wearing the collar of the Order of the Golden Fleece and with a laurel wreath in his hair facing to the viewers right. Around the upper edge of the medal is inscribed **MATTHIAS. DG. EL. HO.IMP. S. A.GER.HVN. BOH.REX.** Translation: Matthias with the grace of God German, Hungarian, Bohemian king.

Reverse: Inside a raised rim is an inscription that reads: **FIRMATVM COELITVS OMEN.** Translation: A token of the glory that was established. Within the inscription is a scene of the sun’s rays beaming down on an eagle with the crown, scepter and sword of state by its side.

Weight: Unknown

Size: Unknown

Type of Material: Gold plated silver

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: Unknown

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known



Images courtesy of
Dorotheum





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Archduke Maximilian III von Habsburg Presentation Medal
(Erzherzog Maximilian III von Habsburg Gnadenfennig)



Date Issued: Circa 1612

Reason Issued: Unknown

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: This is the first Austrian award in which enamel is known to have been incorporated into the design of the medal.

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: A round medal with a green enameled wreath around the edge and three suspension eyes at the top and an eye to suspend a pendent at the bottom

Obverse: A bust of Archduke Maximilian facing to the right and wearing court dress with lace collar. Inscribed around the top half of the bust is: **MAXIMIL D.G. ARC. AVS. AE: LIIII. Ao. MDCXII.** Translation: Maximilian, with the Grace of God Archduke of Austria Age 53 in the year of our lord 1612.

Reverse: Inside a raised rim is depicted an Roman army camp with soldiers guarding the walls. Inside the rim at the top is Inscribed Maximilian's motto: **MILITEMVS** (Service).

Weight: 18 grams

Size: 51 mm in diameter

Type of Material: Gold, platinum and enamel

Variations: None known

Designer: Alesandro Abondio (Italian, 1570-1648)

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Archduke Maximilian III von Habsburg Presentation Medal
(Erzherzog Maximilian III von Habsburg Gnadenfennig)



An alternate suspension

Image attributed to Kituntetsek, Agnes
Makai & Vera Heri, Kiado Zrinyi

Ribbon: The medal is suspended from various highly decorated gold and enamel chains. They usually feature the Austrian coat of arms and various other decorative elements including on occasion a pearl suspension.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known





Awards Issued Prior to 1740
Archduke Charles von Habsburg Medal
(Erzherzog Karl von Habsburg Medaille)



Image attributed to Kituntetese, Agnes
Makai & Vera Heri, Kiado Zrinyi

Date Issued: 1621

Reason Issued: Unknown

Classes or Types: One

Interesting Facts: None Known

Hallmarks: None Known

Design: An oval medal with elaborate pierced wreath edge and three suspension eyes at the top

Obverse: A bust of Archduke Charles facing to the right and wearing court dress with lace collar. Inscribed around the top half of the bust is: **CAROLUS D.G. ARCHIDUX AUSTRIAE**. Translation: Charles by the Grace of God Archduke of Austria.

Reverse: Inscribed **DESIDERAT ANIMA MEA AD TE DEVS 1621**. Translation: My soul longs for you, oh god 1621).

Weight: 23.18 grams

Size: 40-76 mm by 34-41 mm including frames

Type of Material: Gold

Variations: None known

Designer: Unknown

Manufacturer: Unknown

Number Issued: Unknown

Case: Unknown

Ribbon: This medal is suspended from various elaborate suspensions featuring chains and frames for the medal.

Attachments: None

Miniature: None known

